



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Newsletter No. 329

September 12, 2016

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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Coal-plant water pollution reduced ¶3A

New National Monument In the eastern USA ¶4A

Successful auto-fuel standards up for renewal ¶5A

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Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2C	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Sens. Alexander & Corker	"Please move Tenn. Wilderness Bill to floor!"
3B	Cooling water from pristine aquifer	TVA Board	"Undertake transparent study regarding Allen Plant cooling!"
4B	Maintenance backlog for Natl.Parks	Your US Representative	"Support HR.4680, Natl. Park Centennial Act!"
5A	Auto fuel-economy standards	EPA	"Set standards even higher than present ones!"
6B	Depletion of krill populations	Walgreens Boots Alliance	"Stop selling krill supplements!"
7	Upcoming elections		Vote! Vote! Vote! For pro-environment candidates
9A,F	TCWP activities	Sandra Goss and others	Pick activities from ¶9A and participate; volunteer.

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
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www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Governor Bill Haslam
State Capitol
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615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
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Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
e-mail: <http://alexander.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any Repr. or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current action calls.

You can also choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>.

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *View from Lilly Bluff protected by Park-boundary adjustment*

Thousands of annual visitors get their only view of the Obed Wild & Scenic River from the Lilly Bluff Overlook. A prominent part of that view is a knoll above the Clear Creek bluff line that several years ago suffered a clearcut. There was the ongoing fear that additional developments might occur on the knoll to spoil the visitor experience. Unfortunately, not only was the critical 63-acre parcel in private ownership, but it was outside the authorized purchase boundary of the Obed Wild & Scenic River.

Three years ago, anonymous donors who had learned of TCWP's efforts to protect the Obed landscape, contacted us, and we connected them with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which then managed to purchase the tract in January 2014 with the donated funds (NL314 ¶1A). Still, it was not part of the Park.

In mid-August the National Park Service (NPS) gave notice (published in *The Knoxville News Sentinel*) of a proposed boundary revision, designed to include the parcel. The comment period has just ended. Once the boundary adjustment has become legal, TNC will donate the parcel to the Park. Great news indeed! TCWP enthusiastically endorsed the proposed change, noting that the view from Lilly Bluff has become many visitors' principal visual association with the beauty of the Obed.

1B. *Wilderness eligibility being assessed for Obed – first stage in a long process*

The Park Service has recently begun conducting a Wilderness Eligibility Assessment on lands within the boundaries of the Obed Wild & Scenic River. Obed WSR staff and representatives of the NPS's SE Regional Office are meeting to determine which park lands, if any, possess the necessary characteristics to be considered a Wilderness under the terms of the 1964 Wilderness Act. If their draft recommendation receives concurrence from the SE Regional Director and the Director of NPS, funds will be requested to conduct a formal Phase I "Wilderness Study" that ends with an agency decision. An Act of Congress, based on a positive decision, is then required to produce a legislated Wilderness. That last stage can take years, as we are sadly finding out in the case of the Wilderness proposed for the Cherokee National Forest (NL325 ¶4B).

1C. *Big South Fork now has a movie*

On August 27, a brand-new BSF video, *BSFNRRRA Generations*, premiered at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center. While most of us have not yet had the opportunity to see the movie, we have high expectations for it, since it was produced by Silver Fir Media, the same small company that won the 2014 Media Award from the National

Association of Interpretation for its movie *The Obed: Find Yourself Here*.

1D. *Ecological research in Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Results of research recently completed or in progress at Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRRA were presented at the April BSF/Obed Science Meeting at Rugby.

Obed mussels

A survey of freshwater mussels was conducted along 16 miles of inaccessible river reaches at the Obed WSR at 30 separate locations. Among the findings: four species were found in lower Clear Creek that have never been reported from this stream. They are *Medionidus conradicus*, *Pleurobema oviforme*, *Toxolasma lividum*, and the federally endangered *Villosa perpurpurea*.

Historically, 12 species of native freshwater mussels have been documented within the boundaries of the Obed WSR. This study documented 10 of those 12 species. Research presenter Gerald Dinkins notes that several miles of rivers still need to be inventoried: 11 miles of the Obed; 16.5 miles of Clear Creek and 2.2 miles of Daddys Creek.

Big South Fork fish

TVA aquatic biologist Jeffrey Simmons reported on the effects of the Wolf Creek Dam returning to normal operations on the endangered tuxedo darter. Ten miles of previously inundated Big South Fork were free flowing from January 2007 until spring 2014 due to repairs to the Wolf Creek Dam. A survey for rare aquatic species that may have colonized this reach during the free-flowing period was conducted during 2013. The tuxedo darter was observed at eight shoals.

Following this discovery, US Fish and Wildlife Service, in consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers, issued a Biological Opinion in March, 2014, that allowed the Corps to resume normal operation, with the stipulation that a monitoring plan be implemented to determine the effects of higher reservoir levels on tuxedo darters and their habitat for a least five years.

Among the findings was an incredible number of 62 species of fish within the 10-mile reach. Unfortunately, a rapid invasion by the non-native crayfish *Orconectes rusticus* was detected. Its presence poses a threat to native crayfish and to benthic nest-building fishes such as the tuxedo darter. The survey noted that water-quality conditions were greatly improved, evidenced by the diverse fish community and the recovering mussels.

1E. *Service day for climbers*

Sept. 10 was Adopt-A-Crag Day in the Obed WSR for the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition. Climbers who enjoy prime climbing terrain on the bluffs lining the

Obed and its tributaries are paying back on an annual service day, when they do general trail maintenance and litter pickup. In past years, they have also treated hemlocks against attacks by the woolly adelgid. This year's Adopt-A-Crag Day was their 17th annual event in the Park.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Cumberland Trail open in Catoosa*

It has recently been announced that the Cumberland Trail through Catoosa WMA will be open year-round. In the past, access had been closed during hunting seasons. This policy change applies only to hikers. Hunting-season restrictions still apply for vehicles and parking.

2B. *List of impaired waters*

[From TDEC]

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has developed a draft 303(d) List for 2016, the official compilation of impaired waters in Tennessee. The 303(d) List identifies stream segments that violate one or more water-quality standards, or are documented as threatened by pollutants. These segments are then prioritized for a specialized water-quality study of the identified pollutants known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Although the development of this document is neither a regulatory promulgation nor an action of the Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas, it is subject to public review and comment, and must ultimately be approved by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The draft version of the list can be accessed at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-water-quality-reports-publications>

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this public notice, please e-mail gregory.denton@tn.gov, or call Mr. Greg Denton, Planning and Standards Unit, Division of Water Resources, 615-532-0699.

2C. *Tennessee Wild bill, update*

[From Laura Hodge, TN Wild Coordinator]

Congress has returned to Washington for a short work session before elections in November. The Tennessee Wilderness Bill needs to move to the Senate Floor (NL326 ¶2C). The bill protects two special areas, totaling 7368 acres, in the North Cherokee National Forest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge bill sponsors Senators Alexander and Corker (address, p.2) to move the Tennessee Wilderness Bill to the Senate Floor.

3. TVA News

3A. *TVA will reduce toxic pollutants in waters discharged from coal plants*

[Information from cleanenergy.org]

A six-year effort by five environmental organizations has finally resulted in a settlement agreement for major reduction of pollutants in waters discharged from TVA's Gallatin, Bull Run, and Kingston coal-fired power plants. Under the agreement, TVA must incorporate new federal guidelines for the discharge of toxic pollutants, and submit updated permit applications for the plants to TDEC by November 2, 2016. By including the updated public-health requirements in the operating permits for these three coal plants, TVA will significantly reduce the amount of toxic pollutants it dumps into our waterways, including 97% reduction for selenium (which is highly toxic to fish) and 94% for arsenic (a potent neurotoxin and carcinogen).

3B. *Insist on a transparent study about options to cool power plant.*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TVA plans to replace the Allen Fossil Plant near Memphis with the Allen Combined Cycle Plant, which runs on gas and will produce much less air pollution. The new plant will require 3.5 million gallons of "extremely high quality" water per day for cooling purposes, and TVA plans to use a pristine aquifer as the source.

Responding to criticism, President and CEO Bill Johnson at last month's TVA Board meeting stressed that the agency is legally bound to produce electricity at the lowest feasible cost. TVA officials say that all other options -- including buying water from Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division (MLGW) -- pose too many problems in terms of cost and reliability.

Various stakeholders hold many views: the Memphis City Council has approved a resolution asking that TVA explore getting the water from either a shallower aquifer or from MLGW. Rep. Steve Cohen, Memphis, has written the agency expressing concern about the issue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask TVA Board members (board@tva.gov) that a thorough and transparent study with public involvement be undertaken regarding cooling water for the Allen Combined Cycle Plant.

3C. *In situ storage of coal ash generated in the past*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In late July, TVA announced that it will cap and close the 10 coal-ash ponds strewn along TVA waterways. This is the same kind of unlined pond as the one that failed at Kingston in 2008, releasing a record amount of coal ash into the water. According to recent

data compiled by the Southern Environmental Law Center, drinking-water supplies for 2.3 million people in Tennessee are downstream from unlined coal ash pits.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has some authority over this matter. In March, TDEC wrote TVA requiring TVA to remove ash where necessary to protect the public health and environment. TDEC also ordered TVA to develop detailed analyses of all existing coal-ash contamination at its coal plants in Tennessee, with the goal of developing remediation plans that will adequately protect public health and the environment as required by state law. To date, TVA has ignored this order.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask TDEC Commissioner Robert Martineau (address in Political Guide) to protect our vulnerable waterways by insisting that TVA perform the analyses that have already been ordered.

3D. *Sources of TVA-generated power*

Green Power Switch is a voluntary program by which utility customers can chose to pay for blocks of green power generation (\$4 a month per block). In 2015, power supported by Green Power Switch was generated from the following mix:

- 66% Wind
- 22% Biogas (Landfill-generated methane)
- 12% Solar

For comparison, the current average mix of resources TVA purchased or generated in 2015 includes:

- 32% Coal
- 33% Nuclear
- 14% Natural Gas
- 11% Hydroelectric
- 10% Other

Obama has now put more acreage under protection than any other President, though much of it is underwater.

The central feature of the new Maine Woods monument is the East Branch of the Penobscot River, a traditional transportation corridor of the native Wabanaki people of the region. Vast boreal forests surround the river with a diverse mix of tree species, including maple, oak, ash, beech, birch, aspen, spruce, fir, and hemlock. The topography of the monument includes deep river valleys, dramatic flood plains and curious geologic features, including lava flows and “rock conglomerates” — formations made up of different types of Appalachian rock fragments dating back millions of years. The area provides unrivaled wildlife habitat for Canada lynx, ruffed grouse, brook trout, deer, moose, bears, loons, and several rare bird species.

Protection of the land now in the monument has long been a personal passion for Roxanne Quimby and her son Lucas St. Clair, president of Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI), their land-holding entity. Roxanne Quimby, (co-founder of the popular personal-care-product company Burt’s Bees), began acquiring the land as it became available to help protect and restore its natural character from the damages of commercial logging. The family has continued purchasing and preserving these forests and waters for the past 18 years. Not only has EPI now donated the land for the national monument; it will provide a \$40 million endowment to support the future operation of the monument — the first large gift of its kind in the history of our national parks.

4B. *Maintenance backlog may be addressed by National Park Centennial Act*

[From Pew Charitable Trusts, 8-30-16]

Decades of underfunding, combined with the challenges of maintaining a portfolio of diverse natural and historic assets and aging infrastructure, have snowballed into an estimated \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog within the National Park System. This backlog has resulted in crumbling infrastructure, rotting historic sites, and inaccessible trails and roads.

The National Park Centennial Act (H.R. 4680, Rob Bishop, R-UT), which is also supported by the National Parks Conservation Association, is an important first step toward addressing park maintenance issues. This bill:

- Establishes and provides dedicated annual funding for the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund, which allows private donations to be matched with public dollars to finance priority maintenance, construction, and education projects.
- Creates a National Park Foundation Endowment that will grow over time and, at the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, can be used for critical park projects and activities.
- Facilitates more opportunities for volunteer and youth participation in park programs.

4. THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

4A. *On NPS’s 100th Anniversary, Pres. Obama designates two memorable National Monuments*

In recent years, few national monuments, except those of historical significance, have been in the eastern U.S. One has now been created. In honor of the National Park System’s 100th birthday, on August 25, 2016, Pres. Obama used the Antiquities Act twice. One of the designations creates a national monument of significant size in the east – the 87,500-acre Katahdin North Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, adjacent to Baxter State Park, which surrounds Mount Katahdin, Maine’s highest mountain and northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. The other expands the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, NW off the coast of Hawai’i, by almost 300 million acres, making it the largest ecological preserve on the planet. Pres.

When recently urged to support the bill, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (TN3-R) wrote: “. . . our nation currently faces budget shortfalls, and therefore I remain cautious about dedicating unknown funds.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The House of Representatives is expected to vote on HR.4680 during September, so please do not delay in urging your Rep. (address on p.2) to support it.

5. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

5A. *Automobile fuel-economy standards are already working, but coming up for review*

[Includes information from *Union of Concerned Scientists*]

Standards set by the Obama administration in 2012 (NL305 ¶4A) have the goal of raising the average fuel economy of passenger vehicles to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. The reduced oil use will cut greenhouse gas pollution by as much as 6 billion metric tons -- that's equivalent to the annual carbon pollution from 150 coal-fired power plants. The program is already proving to be a great success.

The EPA's recent draft technical assessment review (TAR) of the current fuel economy standards shows that our efficiency goals are not only achievable, but that they're already working. The efficiency of vehicles across all classes is improving, saving drivers money at the pump. Best of all, they have already prevented more than 100 million metric tons of global warming emissions from being produced (the equivalent to shutting down 27 coal-fired power plants!).

Now that the program is coming up for renewal, following midterm review, automakers are, however, trying to roll back the critical standards. The auto industry is twisting data to convince policy makers to lower the targets, even though independent science shows that automakers are already meeting or exceeding the standards today, and that cost-effective technology exists that allows manufacturers to exceed the current 2025 standards of 54.5 miles per gallon, and make cars even cleaner and more efficient by 2030.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge EPA (www.epa.gov) to se automobile fuel economy standards even higher than present ones to achieve maximum carbon pollution reductions and gas-mileage gains. The TAR should reflect the current costs and availability of all technologies and efficiencies available. Identify your comments as intended for Docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0827.

5B. *New fuel-efficiency standards for heavy-duty vehicles*

[Information from *Union of Concerned Scientists*]

Transportation is now the biggest source of global warming emissions in the United States, overtaking even power generation. Heavy-duty vehicles (big rigs, delivery vans, garbage trucks, etc.) comprise 7% of the vehicles on the road, but they consume 25% of the fuel, because, on average, trucks go just six miles on a gallon of diesel, a number that hasn't changed much since the 1970's.

On August 16, the federal government issued new standards to ensure that new trucks will use 37% less fuel over the next ten years. This new rule will reduce global warming emissions by 1.1 billion tons and oil use by 2 billion barrels over the lifetime of the program. This is the single most comprehensive set of fuel economy and global warming pollution standards for heavy-duty vehicles ever put in place, and the United States now has the strongest truck fuel economy standards in the world. These standards will save truck operators more than \$170 billion per year, and the average household should pay about \$150 less per year for shipped goods.

5C. *Encouraging clean-energy statistics from DOE*

According to the US Department of Energy,

- Use of coal, as a power source for U.S. energy production decreased from 48% in 2008 to 30% at present.
- There are now 3+ solar-power jobs in the U.S. for every coal-mining job.
- More solar power was generated in just the first five months of 2016 than in the years from 2006 through 2012.

5D. *And potentially bad news, unless . . .*

Atmospheric CO₂ measured in Antarctica has topped 400 parts per million, the highest concentration there in 4 million years. Earth may have crossed the threshold to a 400 ppm future. To limit global warming to less than 2°C by the end of the century (as agreed to in the recent Paris Accords) we must, by 2030, reduce annual emissions from a projected 70 gigatons of CO₂ to about 40 gigatons. Nature Conservancy (TNC) scientists estimate that about 1/3 of the reduction needed in the next critical decade can be achieved by protecting and restoring nature and its carbon-storage capacity

6. LIVING THINGS AROUND THE WORLD

6A. *Recovery of species under the ESA*

[From *Nature*, 8/17/16]

According to a DoI announcement, more species protected by the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) have recovered during the Obama administration than under all other presidents combined, namely, 19 recov-

ered and de-listed, as compared to 7, 6, and 5 under George W. Bush, Clinton, and Reagan, respectively. It may be that the law is finally starting to pay dividends, or it may reflect the fact that the Obama administration has been putting more resources into processing de-listings for recovered species, in an effort to counter attacks from Republicans in Congress who say the law has a poor success rate.

It is certainly to be hoped that de-listings are not premature, i.e., before a species really has the ability for full recovery. The ESA process does not move as quickly as it should in the opposite direction, i.e., when it comes to listing species for protection in the first place . . . it takes a species on average 12 years to be listed after first consideration — much more than the two years that the law says it should.

6B. *From one of the smallest . . . Krill, the base of the southern-ocean food chain (populations are being badly depleted)*

Krill, tiny shrimp-like crustaceans, are estimated to provide over 96% of the calories needed by seabirds and marine mammals in the Antarctic ecosystem (up to and including Antarctic Blue Whales, listed as critically endangered). Unfortunately, krill are being hunted by technologically advanced fishing fleets that can vacuum up every last krill in their path. Once caught, the krill are ground into Omega-3 pills that are then offered for sale at a Walgreens near you. There has been no confirmation of the health claims made for krill supplements.

It is estimated that, since first targeted by commercial fishing fleets, the Antarctic krill population has been depleted by 80%, and the krill-oil-supplement market is growing by more than 40% a year! It doesn't help that krill populations, which are commonly found on the underside of sea ice, are also markedly affected by global warming.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Stefano Pessina, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of the Walgreens Boots Alliance (walgreensbootsalliance.com) to stop selling krill supplements (e-mail: investor.relations@wba.com).

6C. *To one of the largest . . . Elephants (new ivory-trade ban may slow the alarming rate of killing)*

[From NRDC]

Ninety-six elephants are killed every day in Africa for their ivory.

At the beginning of June, the Obama Administration announced a federal ban on the sale of ivory in the United States. The new rules also close other loopholes in our country's ivory laws by further restricting ivory exports from the U.S. and sales of ivory items between U.S. states. In addition, Hawaii's governor signed legislation banning that state's ivory trade, eliminating what had been the third largest U.S. ivory market. NRDC has

already helped enact similar bans in New York and California — formerly the first and second largest U.S. ivory markets.

6D. *Michael Frome has died*

Michael Frome, well-known conservationist and author, and friend to several of us, died on on September 4. That day, the *Portogram*, his monthly blog, read thus:

The Last Page

This is the last edition of my Portogram, due to my departure from this earth on September 4, 2016.

It has been great fun, I've enjoyed it very much, and I send my best wishes to all my friends and followers.

Be of good cheer, Michael

Michael Frome

May 25, 1920–September 4, 2016

7. UPCOMING ELECTIONS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Federal

There's Trump, of course, who has called climate change "a hoax invented by the Chinese," and who says that he would "at a minimum" renegotiate the Paris climate accord. He has also promised to bring back the US coal industry. And we all know that voting for a third-party candidate essentially gives a vote to Trump. Hillary is well aware of climate change, and of the threat to the planet it presents.

How about the Congress? The Republican National Committee's 2016 Platform calls on "national and state leaders and representatives to exert their utmost power and influence to" turn over "federally controlled public lands to the states." Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, introduced legislation to undermine the Antiquities Act [by which national monuments are created], which he has called "the most evil act ever invented."

In June, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) released a 57-page plan that included a proposal to overturn the Clean Power Plan and "all climate-change regulations under the Clean Air Act," claiming that this would force some "humility" on federal agencies like the EPA.

This sentiment was echoed in a July 26 letter from a member of our own state delegation, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN3). He says: "The EPA has often attempted to extend its power and create regulations which work against Tennessee residents and business owners. Despite the will of Congress, the EPA is misusing the regulatory process to require excessive greenhouse gas emission reductions, consider unwarranted and costly ozone standards, and expand its authority to unprecedented levels under the Clean Water Act (CWA). In addition to the economic cost, these regula-

tions typically have negligible environmental benefits. I firmly believe that Congress has a strong obligation to rein in the EPA's continued overreach.”

Rep. Fleischmann has also, over the course of many years, resisted sponsoring our Tennessee Wilderness bill in the House. For his views on NPS funding, see ¶4B, this NL.

State and local

Voters are invited to “Meet the Candidates” on Thursday, October 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Gymnasium. Democracy for East Tennessee is sponsoring this event so citizens can become more informed and better acquainted with the candidates in the upcoming general election. Early voting begins October 19.

Come meet the men and women who want to represent you and serve our community. Come ask them their positions on the issues that are important to you. Come share your ideas and hear theirs for improving the quality of life in our city, state and nation.

Candidates have been invited for the following offices on the November ballot: Oak Ridge City Council, Oak Ridge School Board, and 3rd U.S. Congressional District.

Citizens will have the opportunity to talk individually to those candidates who attend. There is no admission charge.

For more information, find this event on Facebook at Democracy for East Tennessee, or contact Tom Burns at 865-385-7063.

8. OAK RIDGE AREA: MANHATTAN PROJECT NHP

8A. *Superintendent named*

On October 16, Kris Kirby will become the new superintendent of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP), established in November 2015 at Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford. (Niki Stephanie Nicholas, Superintendent of the BSFNRR and Obed WSR, has been manager of the Oak Ridge unit of the Park.) Kirby, a 20-year career employee of NPS, currently serves as the Chief of Business & Revenue Management at Yosemite National Park, managing the recreation-fee and concession programs. Previous assignments include Chief of Commercial Services at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and work in concessions management at Glacier National Park. Her experience in fostering relationships inside and outside NPS was cited as excellent background for the MPNHP job that involves partnership with DOE and work with three local communities

8B. *National-Bike-Your-Park Day to be celebrated at Manhattan Project NHP*

On Saturday, Sept. 24, a ranger will lead bikers down Melton Lake Greenway, stopping at intervals to point out history found within the Oak Ridge area. Meet at 10 a.m. at Elza Gate Park.

8C. *O.R Symphony will help celebrate Park Service Centennial*

The O.R. Symphony's 2016-Season opener on Sept. 24 will include a special celebration of the National Park Service Centennial. The ORHS String Quartet will perform in the lobby before the start of the concert at 7:30.

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern time unless specified otherwise.]

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 24

On September 24, TCWP and TVA will partner again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. Historian Ann Hewitt Worthington will present a brief history of the Worthington Cemetery as a “time capsule” of a typical family of early settlers after the Revolutionary War through the late 1942 relocation of families for the Manhattan Project. TVA expects to add bird boxes and bat boxes at the ESA prior to this event, so volunteers will have something new to see.

TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the Ecological Study Area.

We will meet for the cleanup at 9 a.m. at the Elza Gate Park picnic area, east of the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive. At the completion of our work (around noon), TCWP will provide a pizza lunch. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, gloves, and clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws, if possible. Other tools and equipment will also be available at the worksite. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at (865) 805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

Hike at the Norris Municipal Watershed – Saturday, October 29

(Contributed by Joe Feeman)

The Norris Municipal Watershed, situated adjacent to Norris Dam State Park, is a 2,300-acre area that is the watershed of Clear Creek; it is managed for water quality protection, sustainable forest management, and public recreation. A network of about 30 miles of forest roads and single-track trails are managed by the Norris Watershed Board. On this fall outing, we will hike up Clear Creek Trail to Lower White Pine Trail, up Raccoon Run Trail to Red Hill Trail, and then to the White Oak Spring Trail and back down Clear Creek Trail to the start. As we walk, we'll learn about the forest and discuss the history of this area.

This hike is about 3.9 miles, rated easy to moderate (because of mileage). We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), to leave at 8:15 a.m.; or participants can meet the group at Norris Middle School at 9 a.m. to carpool on to the trailhead. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks or a lunch. For more information, call Joe Feeman at (865) 457-8191.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 5

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic invasive plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by bushy lespedeza, leatherleaf viburnum, privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch. For more information, contact Tim Bigelow at 865-607-6781 or Bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, November 12

Save the date! This year's annual meeting will be held on November 12, with Don Barger, National Parks Conservation Association, as our speaker. The morning session will include Don's talk and our annual business meeting; lunch and a selection of afternoon hikes will follow. Details, including the meeting's location, will be provided via email closer to the meeting date.

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 8

This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge. Mark your calendar now, so you don't miss it!

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at (865) 583-3967.

9B. *Recent events*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Creek Exploration Outing at Fall Creek Falls State Park – Saturday, July 23

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

On a sweltering July Saturday, three brave TCWP folks traveled to Fall Creek Falls for a walk along Piney Creek. Led by State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, the outing was quite enjoyable, albeit very, very hot.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, August 20

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Fifteen wonderful volunteers turned out for the Summer Cedar Barren cleanup out, including four who worked with John Byrd on the small wetland.

There was a successful effort to remove a patch of lespedeza in the oval clearing. Several other invasives were pulled or trimmed throughout the clearing. Nepal grass is growing heavily on the north side, and was hand-trimmed and mowed around the pond area. The trail was trimmed and front area inspected.

Although the blazing stars were not yet in bloom, a few other prairie wildflowers could be seen. We are also protecting habitat that supports three Tennessee rare plants that live in the barrens: prairie goldenrod, naked-stem sunflower, and Torrey's mountain mint. A suggestion was made that laminated guides to some of the wildflowers be placed at the signs at each entrance.

9C. *Reprints still available*

Reprints are still available of *The Tennessee Conservationist* article "Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Works to Preserve Water Quality, Wildlife and Natural Wonders" by Nancy Adgent. Send \$2 (for mailing) and your address to TCWP (P.O. Box 6873, Oak Ridge, TN 37831).

9D. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...*

From Sandra Goss

-- Jean Bangham, Bob Compton, Katherine Hensley, Joe Horton, Harriet McCurdy, Eleanor Neiler, Lise Neiler, Dick Raridon, Michele Thornton for their help with

TCWP Newsletter distribution.

- Janet Sale for sending TCWP donors hand-written thank you notes.
- Francis Perey for his wonderful work on the TCWP website.
- Tim Bigelow for his wonderful work as TCWP Treasurer.
- Randy Hedgepath for leading the TCWP hike on Piney Creek at Fall Creek Falls State Park.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership at the August Oak Ridge Cedar Barren clean-up.

9E. *Friends and members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Jenny Freeman is listed as an attendee at the Knoxville Opera Guild's Annual Meeting in the July 24 *News Sentinel*.
- Antone Davis is prominently featured in an article about Vols for Life in the July 24 *News Sentinel*.
- Joe Feeman penned articles about traveling in New York in the August 10 and 24 issues of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Michelle Haynes authored an op-ed column in the August 16 *Tennessean* about TVA's coal-ash disposal decision.
- Ellen Smith wrote a letter to the *News Sentinel* editor on August 19 about Melton Hill Lake water quality.
- John Byrd and his work with Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization were featured in a July 1 *Oak Ridger* article.
- Mona and Dick Raridon recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, as reported in the July 1 *Oak Ridger*.
- Ray Garrett wrote a letter to the July 7 *Oak Ridger* about the financial needs of the Friends of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park – Oak Ridge.
- Richard Raridon wrote a Letter to the Editor of the *Oak Ridger* on August 11 about the Southern Appalachia Railway Museum.
- Energy-source subsidies were the topic of a Letter to the Editor of the August 22 *News Sentinel* written by Pat Morales.
- Antone Davis, Director of the Vol For Life program, was mentioned and pictured with his son in the August 26 *News Sentinel*.

9F. *Executive Director's Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

The rural Tennessee counties in which natural resources and special wild lands and waters intersect are facing financial problems. Low coal and natural-gas prices contribute to fewer jobs. Property values and population in many of these counties have also dropped.

Experience shows that increased tourism can offset counties' and cities' financial shortfalls. As one might imagine, this is not, however, an overnight process, nor is it readily embraced by the local population.

Local support of and love for wild lands and waters are vital to conservation efforts. TCWP works hard to establish and maintain relationships with various organizations with similar interests: to foster appreciation and care for parks, from National to local. We sponsor outdoor activities designed to show folks the wonder of the natural world. We attend outdoor activities and programs and support our sister organizations as much as possible.

It's a good idea to contribute something to the local economy wherever one recreates. Whether it's trail food, gas, or a meal, the local businesses need this support.

Along these lines, it's great to read that Wartburg has been accepted to participate in the Tennessee Downtown Program. This 2-year program provides mentoring, information, and a \$15,000 grant to improve and preserve historic downtowns.

On the other hand, Morgan County officials have expressed dismay about a proposed Obed Wild and Scenic River acquisition that will result in lost property taxes, according to Morgan County Executive Don Edwards. Quoted in the September 7 *Morgan County News*, Edwards said. "What they [the park service] do is all well and good, but it still puts more of the burden on the rest of the taxpayers."

In other tourism news, a study completed in 2015 indicates that ATV tourism has contributed \$4.98 million to the Scott County economy. While ATV usage can be quite harmful to land and water quality, one must acknowledge that such an economic boost would be welcome to Scott County tax-payers.

The county recently lost (for the second time in two years) the local hospital. Financial issues were identified as the reason for closure.

The current population trends are growth in urban areas and population decreases in rural areas. From all this, it seems clear that rural counties are struggling financially. Action to help these economies could include promoting the value of tourism and contributing to the local economy.

As I write this, the details of our 50th Annual Meeting are getting ironed out. What we do know: former TCWP Board member and SE Regional Director of National Parks Conservation Association, Don Barger, will be our speaker. The date is Saturday, November 12.

Please plan to join us as we celebrate 50 years of Taking Care of Wild Places.

Our successes are the result of us working together. Thank you so much for reading. Don't miss the cool activities coming up the rest of the year (see ¶9A).

Sandra

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

(For more information, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- September 24, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see ¶9A, this NL).
- September 24, Ranger-led bike trip for MPNHP (see ¶8B, this NL).
- October 13, "Meet the Candidates" forum, Oak Ridge (see ¶7, this NL).
- October 22 and 23 – Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) Conference at UT Law School
- October 29, Hike at Norris Municipal Watershed (see ¶9A, this NL).
- November 5, Fall Cedar Barrens cleanup (see ¶9A, this NL).
- November 12, TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶9A and 9F, this NL).
- December 8, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶9A, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- Seventeen different guided hikes are scheduled throughout the remainder of September as part of the Cumberland County Hiking Marathon. For a listing, see <http://www.time2meet.com/marathon/>. Reservations are not needed for these hikes. The leader will show up at the meeting place, rain or shine, and determine whether to proceed or cancel the hike if the weather is bad.

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Coming Events

- Sat., Sept. 24 National Public Lands Day - Worthington Cemetery
- Sat., Sun., Oct.22, 23 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (APIEL) Conference at UT Law School
- Sat., Oct. 29 Norris Municipal Watershed Hike
- Sat., Nov. 5 Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Clean-up
- Sat., Nov. 12 TCWP 50th Annual Meeting and Party
- Thurs., Dec. 8 TCWP Holiday Party